GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3777
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2001
EXPLOITATION OF CBM RESERVES
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal Bed Methane (CBM) fall in the category of Oil and Natural Gas;

(b) whether as per the provision of MMDR Act, 1957 CBM does not fall in the list of minerals for which concession is being given under this Act;

(c) whether the State Governments have been empowered to exploit the reserves; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Union Government to exploit the reserves?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MI OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b):- Coal Bed Methane (CBM), as a Natural Gas is coveredunder the provisions of Oil (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government of India had approved the policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM in the country.This policy provides for offer of blocks for exploration and exploitation of CBM throughglobal competitive bidding. Under this policy, Government invited bids for seven blocks in the first offer. Sixteen bids for six blocks were received. The process of award of the contracts has not been completed.